

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method for trimming nails comprising:  
2           applying an abrasive surface coupled to a moving member against both an  
3 extended nail portion and a surrounding epidermal tissue portion to cause a grinding action on  
4 the extended nail portion, the abrasive surface coupled to the moving member being driven by an  
5 electric drive device coupled to the moving member; and

6           whereupon the abrasive surface as applied to both the extended nail portion and  
7 the surrounding epidermal tissue portion is characterized by a predetermined speed, a  
8 predetermined action, and a selected texture to remove the nail portion by the grinding action  
9 while maintaining the surrounding epidermal tissue substantially free from any physical damage.

1           2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined action is selected from  
2 an oscillating movement, a rotating movement, a lateral movement, a vibrating movement, an  
3 orbital movement, or a combination of these movements.

1           3.     The method of claim 1 wherein abrasive surface is applied to both the  
2 portion of the nail and the surrounding epidermal tissue at a predetermined force, the force  
3 ranging from an upper end to a lower end, the upper end being hundreds of times that of the  
4 lower end, the predetermined force being selected by a user.

1           4.     The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined force at the upper end  
2 stops the moving member.

1           5.     The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined speed is a variable  
2 parameter or a fixed parameter.

1           6.     The method of claim 1 wherein the moving member and the abrasive  
2 surface being coupled with a shock resistant material, the shock resistant material being coupled  
3 to a backside surface of the abrasive surface, the shock resistant allowing the abrasive surface to  
4 conform to a contour of the nail portion or the epidermal tissue portion to cause the grinding  
5 action.

1                   7.     The method of claim 1 wherein the abrasive material and related elements  
2 are removable and replaceable from the moving member.

1                   8.     The method of claim 1 wherein the moving member is coupled to a  
2 housing, the housing being an elongated member capable of being held by a hand along a first  
3 portion and being coupled to the moving member along a second portion.

1                   9.     The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined speed is a constant or a  
2 variable or a variable dependent upon a force of applying.

1                   10.    The method of claim 1 wherein a switch operatively connected to the  
2 electric drive device provides momentary and continuous operation of the moving member.

1                   11.    The method of claim 1 wherein the abrasive material is selected from a  
2 material ranging from the equivalent of about 50 grit to 15,000 grit.

1                   12.    The method of claim 1 wherein the abrasive material surface having a  
2 graphical design to provide a pattern during movement of the movable member.

1                   13.    The method of claim 12 wherein the pattern indicates a velocity of the  
2 abrasive material.

1                   14.    A method for trimming nails comprising:  
2                   applying an abrasive surface coupled to a moving member against an extended  
3 nail portion to initiate a grinding action on the extended nail portion, the abrasive surface  
4 coupled to the moving member being driven by an electric drive device coupled to the moving  
5 member; and  
6                   protecting the surrounding epidermal tissue using a protective device, the  
7 protective device exposing at least the extended nail portion;  
8                   whereupon the abrasive surface as applied to the extended nail portion is  
9 characterized by a predetermined speed, a predetermined action, and a selected texture to remove  
10 the nail portion by the grinding action while the protective device keeps the surrounding  
11 epidermal tissue substantially free from any physical damage.

1                   15.    The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined action is selected from  
2 an oscillating movement, a rotating movement, a lateral movement, a vibrating movement, an  
3 orbital movement, or a combination of these movements.

1                   16.    The method of claim 14 wherein abrasive surface is applied to both the  
2 portion of the nail and the surrounding epidermal tissue at a predetermined force, the force  
3 ranging from an upper end to a lower end, the upper end being hundreds of times that of the  
4 lower end, the predetermined force being selected by a user.

1                   17.    The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined force at the upper end  
2 stops the moving member.

1                   18.    The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined speed is a variable  
2 parameter or a fixed parameter.

1                   19.    The method of claim 14 wherein the moving member and the abrasive  
2 surface being coupled with a shock resistant material, the shock resistant material being coupled  
3 to a backside surface of the abrasive surface, the shock resistant allowing the abrasive surface to  
4 conform to a contour of the nail portion or the epidermal tissue portion to cause the grinding  
5 action.

1                   20.    The method of claim 14 wherein the abrasive material and related  
2 elements are removable and replaceable from the moving member.

1                   21.    The method of claim 14 wherein the moving member is coupled to a  
2 housing, the housing being an elongated member capable of being held by a hand along a first  
3 portion and being coupled to the moving member along a second portion.

1                   22.    The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined speed is a constant or  
2 a variable or a variable dependent upon a force of applying.

1                   23.    The method of claim 14 wherein a switch operatively connected to the  
2 electric drive device provides momentary and continuous operation of the moving member.

1           24.    The method of claim 14 wherein the abrasive material is selected from a  
2 material ranging from the equivalent of about 50 grit to 15,000 grit.

1           25.    The method of claim 14 wherein the abrasive material surface having a  
2 graphical design to provide a pattern during movement of the movable member.

1           26.    The method of claim 25 wherein the pattern indicates a velocity of the  
2 abrasive material.

1           27.    An apparatus for trimming nails, the apparatus comprising:  
2 a mobile housing comprising an elongated body member;  
3 an electric drive device within and coupled to the housing, the electric drive  
4 device having a transfer member;  
5 a movable head coupled to the transfer member of the electric drive device, the  
6 movable head being adapted to receive mechanical energy from the electric drive device through  
7 the transfer member;  
8 an abrasive surface coupled to the movable head, the abrasive surface being  
9 capable of a grinding action; and  
10 a shock absorbing member coupled between the movable head and abrasive  
11 surface, the shock absorbing member being capable of allowing the abrasive member to conform  
12 onto a non-conformal surface.

1           28.    The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the shock absorbing member is a  
2 resilient, conforming mechanism that is selected from a compliant mechanical means, foam, or  
3 elastomer.

1           29.    The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising a protective device coupled  
2 to the housing, the protective device allowing a portion of the abrasive surface to be exposed.